

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating or inhibiting macular degeneration, comprising applying to at least a portion of the macula of a subject in need of treatment or inhibition of macular degeneration, an amount of electromagnetic energy having a wavelength in the visible to near-infrared wavelength range and a power density sufficient to produce biostimulatory effects on said macula.
2. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the power density is at least about 0.01 mW/cm².
3. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the power density is selected from the range of about 1 mW/cm² to about 100 mW/cm².
4. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the power density is selected from the range of about 20 mW/cm² to about 50 mW/cm².
5. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the electromagnetic energy has a wavelength of about 630 nm to about 904 nm.
6. A method in accordance with Claim 5 wherein the electromagnetic energy has a wavelength of about 830 nm.
7. A method in accordance with Claim 5 wherein the electromagnetic energy has a wavelength of about 780 nm to about 840 nm.
8. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein applying the electromagnetic energy comprises providing a laser energy source.
9. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the electromagnetic energy comprises pulsed light.
10. A method for treating or inhibiting macular degeneration comprising applying to a region of a retina of a subject in need of such treatment or inhibition a macular degeneration effective amount of electromagnetic energy having a wavelength in the visible to near-infrared wavelength range.
11. A method in accordance with Claim 10 wherein applying the electromagnetic energy comprises applying a predetermined power density of electromagnetic energy to the macula.

12. A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein the predetermined power density is a power density of at least about 0.01 mW/cm².

13. A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein the predetermined power density is a power density selected from the range of about 1 mW/cm² to about 100 mW/cm².

14. A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein the predetermined power density is selected from the range of about 20 mW/cm² to about 50 mW/cm².

15. A method in accordance with Claim 10 wherein the electromagnetic energy has a wavelength of about 630 nm to about 904 nm.

16. A method in accordance with Claim 15 wherein the electromagnetic energy has a wavelength of about 830 nm.

17. A method in accordance with Claim 15 wherein the electromagnetic energy has a wavelength of about 780 nm to about 840 nm.

18. A method in accordance with Claim 10 wherein applying the macular degeneration effective amount of electromagnetic energy further comprises providing a laser energy source for generating the electromagnetic energy.

19. A method in accordance with Claim 10 further comprising a continuous light source for generating the electromagnetic energy.

20. A method in accordance with Claim 10 further comprising a pulsed light source for generating the electromagnetic energy.